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BOOK NOTICES.

Geografia Comercial de la América del Sur. Parte Preliminar ; Segunda Entrega (República Argentina) ; Tercera Entrega (República de Bolivia). Por Carlos B. Cisneros, y Rómulo E. García. 8vo. Lima, Imprenta de la Escuela de Ingenieros. 1897. With maps.

Lest we should seem unduly tardy in giving recognition to this work it must be stated that the third volume, though prepared for the press in 1897, was delayed in the printer's hands. Perhaps we are betraying no confidence to explain also that the work is in one sense an ambitious undertaking for the country in which it is issued, and that the authors have felt it needful to proceed slowly while awaiting encouragement to carry out their plans. The scope of the work is large, embracing separate volumes dealing with each of the South American republics. That such a series of publications should be conceived in South America, by South Americans, and executed by them without foreign aid, is an instance of an awakening self-consciousness that is very promising for the future. It seems peculiarly fitting too that it should issue from the centre of the earlier culture and greatness of the Southern Continent. Although crippled by war, and by financial burdens, Peru has given evidence of superior intellectual strength, and sustains institutions of learning which would be a credit to any country. The authors of the *Geografia Comercial* are themselves identified with one of the chief of these institutions, the Sociedad Geográfica de Lima, Dr. Cisneros as Secretary, and Sr. García as a member of the Committee on Territorial Delimitation appointed by that Society.

A treatise on Commercial Geography, whose value shall be permanent, is a most difficult undertaking. It involves primarily the double training of the scientific geographer and of the business man, otherwise it is impossible to weigh accurately the effects of mere productive potentiality, and of geographical lines of least resistance for intercommunication, one upon the other. The easiest route is not necessarily the one that will be followed, nor is power to produce always a sufficient magnet to attract the iron rails of the common carrier. Again, the internal development of a country may be determined by geographical factors which have no relation to the possible export business, which may be facilitated or retarded by

other geographical considerations. There are multitudinous questions of soil, climate, rainfall, water routes, mountain barriers, fuel, water power, and the like, the analysis of which in their relations to each other requires exhaustive knowledge and keen appreciation of the circumstances which render possible an economical exchange of products. The bulletins of the Bureau of American Republics were deficient in this kind of analysis, and the work before us fails in the same particular. It is replete with information, presented in very convenient form; the general characteristics of each portion of Argentina and Bolivia are well set forth; and means of communication are discussed quite fully; but the complex relations of part to part, and of the whole to the great world outside, are not worked out so that we can see the elements of strength and weakness, nor forecast the lines which will be taken in the future unfolding of the resources of the countries described. These are defects which the authors should make good in the volumes of the series which are yet to come.

The political discussions are really quite superior to those portions of the work professing to deal with geography. The authors have studied the political and sociological questions affecting their kindred in Argentina and Bolivia, and have reasoned accurately and wisely. Nothing better has yet appeared concerning the causes of political unrest in South America, and one can but regret that in deference to the geographical idea these important matters have been so briefly treated. There is nothing in connection with South America which the outer world so little understands as its revolutionary history, and nothing regarding which it so much needs enlightenment. A whole chapter might have been written on the theme which is stated in the volume on Bolivia (p. 223) in the following words: "In her internal politics, as in the case of other South American countries, the people do not know the law except as personified, and do not respect it except when it has the sanction of force." This is a bold, frank utterance concerning countries which call themselves republics, to be made by champions of republican institutions. But it would be well to learn from one who is in the midst of this political arena why this is so, and to what extent the declaration is too broad. For each new dictator fights his way to power as the defender of some right of the people, which is henceforth regarded as a right in the abstract. It is a step in a process of evolution, and the question is, How far has this evolution proceeded? We hear of renewed efforts toward an alliance between the Spanish-American republics. We admit that such an

alliance would be fortunate. We know that every past effort in that direction has failed, and that the several republics as now constituted represent very nearly original divisions according to race, circumscribed within certain pretty well-defined natural geographical boundary lines. There have thus been natural tendencies to centralization about a number of foci, and this all points toward a condition in which one-man power is upheld for the sake of the increased strength resulting from such consolidation. There is something significantly tribal in all this, quite apparent to the foreign student. If it is also apparent to those plunged *in medias res*, they might throw strong light upon this and all those questions connected with it. Geographical features have been apparently one great determining influence in the political situation in South America, and national animosities have had a powerful effect upon commercial development. Hence it is worth knowing how far these geographical barriers will continue to keep alive that racial separatism which has so long worked ill to the Spanish-American peoples.

The treatise of Srs. Cisneros and Garcia, though not all we might expect in a Commercial Geography, is so hopeful a sign of progress in South American thought, that we may fairly expect them to shed fuller light upon the difficult problems of life and growth in these Latin republics in their future *entregas*.

C. DEK.

Man and His Work, an Introduction to Human Geography, by A. J. Herbertson, Ph.D., and F. D. Herbertson, B.A. Adam & Charles Black, London, 1899. pp. viii+118.

In this little book, which appears in the pleasing type and cover of Black's School Geography Series, we have a very readable introduction to human geography by authors whose training and interests make them particularly well qualified for the task they have undertaken. As the preface states, this is apparently the first attempt to present the principles of human geography in a popular form, and the authors deserve our thanks for their breaking of a new field, and doing it well.

The book is designed as a reader for teachers who would get in touch with the human side of geography, and for school pupils who are making a beginning in such studies under guidance. The matter of the book is, however, so arranged and presented as to appeal to the general reader, as well as the teacher, and should exert a good influence in making an interest in geography wider spread, and more rational.